



the General Alarm

April 2014

Interim Fire Chief Mike Esparza
3401 University Ave
Riverside CA 92501
951-826-5321

www.riversideca.gov/fire

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/?sk=welcome#!/CityOfRiversideFire>

Twitter: www.twitter.com Follow us at @rivcafIRE

/// FIRE LINE - DO NOT CROSS /// FIRE LINE - DO NOT CROSS ///

Annual Employee Service and Awards Ceremony

This year's Employee Service and Awards Ceremony took place at the new Downtown Fire Station on April 4. The event was well attended by RFD members, family, friends, retirees, and dignitaries. Among the many awards recognized were this year's Employees of the Year : FF/PM Eric Peniata for safety/sworn and Administrative Services Manager Shari Call for civilian/non-sworn.

Because Eric Peniata had deployed to the Oso mudslides at the time of the ceremony, his family attended the event to accept on his behalf, and through the technology, Eric "virtually" accepted the award via Skype. (cont page 2)



Ceremony (cont from Page 1)

the General Alarm

April 2014



Firefighter Peniata was selected for his consistent effort in making the fire department a better and safer organization. He began his career with the City of Riverside Fire Department in January 2001. Throughout his career, Eric has been a high energy employee who consistently demonstrates pride in his profession and a strong inner drive for personal best. His current assignment is at the Magnolia Center Fire Station (Fire Station #3) located on Riverside Avenue. In addition to his assignment as a paramedic on the engine company, FF Peniata is also a member of the fire department's Technical Rescue Team. This team trains for and responds to the low-frequency/high risk types of incidents. These duties involve specialized rescue training for such events as rope rescue situations, structural collapse techniques, and swift water rescue. Eric responded to Hurricane Katrina as a member of the swift water rescue team.

As an active member of the California Task Force 6 Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) Team, FF Peniata is qualified to perform various roles/ positions including: rescue, technical search, medical, and communications specialist.

One of the intangibles Firefighter Peniata possesses is his understanding of information technology within this electronic age, such as computers, video cameras, and radio communication equipment. The success of any emergency operation depends heavily on the ability to communicate. Eric joined the department's radio committee in 2004 and has transitioned to a lead role within the program. As the program manager, Eric researches communication equipment, makes in-house repairs, programs/updates radio equipment, and interacts with a wide variety of vendors to ensure the fire department in getting modern equipment at the best value possible. With the advancement of the video cameras, such as the "Go Pro", Firefighter Peniata is now working to develop videos as another method of instruction on how to perform basic and advanced fire department operations.

For his consistent effort and commitment in making the fire department a better organization throughout his career, FF Eric Peniata is being recognized as the City of Riverside Fire Department Public Safety Employee of the Year for 2013.

Administrative Services Manager Shari Call oversees the department budget, capital improvement planning, and is the Office of Emergency Services liaison for administration of grant and mutual aid reimbursement issues. She also provides oversight for our administrative clerical staff. Shari consistently displays a positive/helpful attitude, attention to detail, and the ability to secure and manage grants.

Shari is well known for her ability to successfully secure grants for our department. In the last four years, our department has received approximately \$1.4 million in grants, due greatly in part to Shari's efforts. These grants have saved the Riverside taxpayers significantly and greatly aided firefighters in their efforts to provide excellent life safety and rescue services to our City. These funds allowed us to provide public educational materials to the community, replaced old non-compliant emergency generators at our fire stations, modernize our fire station alerting system to improve response times, upgraded our emergency radio communication system and provided contemporary firefighting training to our firefighters.

(More photos from the ceremony on pages 5-7)

Birthdays



May Birthdays

Greg Bluma	5/26
Rand Brinkman	5/27
David Castaneda	5/20
Chuck Clements	5/14
Mike Esparza	5/9
Mike Estrada	5/29
Dustin Fenzke	5/26
Roni Forst	5/4
Tony Garcia	5/17
Steve Hallgren	5/21
Pat Hopkins	5/17
Todd LeSieur	5/28
Tim Odebralski	5/21
Tony Perna	5/3
Robert Redondo	5/12
Jason Roehl	5/21
Steve Schlom	5/15
Peter Sellas	5/13
Mike Staley	5/26
Matt Stibal	5/8

/// FIRE LINE - DO NOT CROSS ///

Congratulations

6 Month Probation: Corey Holt
(4/7)

12 Month Probation: David
Waltemeyer (4/9)

Appointments: Effective April 25,
Battalion Chief Bob Valdez to Interim
Operations Deputy Chief.

the General Alarm

April 2014



Dispatcher Appreciation

During Dispatcher Appreciation Week (April 14-18), Fire Chief Esparza presented a certificate of appreciation to our public safety dispatchers for the amazing job they do for our department and our public safety partner, the police department. Also the new Communication Center celebrated its first anniversary.



/// FIRE LINE - DO NOT CROSS ///



Chaplains Steve Ballinger and Tony Braun were recognized for their volunteer work at a ceremony on April 22. L to R: Mayor Rusty Bailey, Tony Braun, Steve Ballinger, and Fire Chief Esparza



Mail

the General Alarm

April 2014



CITY OF CORONA FIRE DEPARTMENT

400 S. VICENTIA AVENUE • CORONA, CA 92882 • (951) 736-2220 • FAX (951) 736-2497
WWW.DISCOVERCORONA.COM

April 29, 2014

Chief Mike Esparza
Riverside City Fire Department
3085 St. Lawrence Street
Riverside, CA 92504

Dear Chief Esparza,

On behalf of the Corona Fire Department, I would like to personally thank you for your agency's participation when the Department activated the Riverside County Arson Task Force Team last month.

The scene was complicated and required the expertise of additional trained fire investigators. Captain Abbruzzese and Engineer Bruce's experience and expertise were a true asset, and is a reflection of the high caliber of personnel within your organization. They were committed and hardworking throughout the entire process.

If we can be of any assistance to your department in the future, please do not hesitate to call on us and we look forward to a continued relationship.

Sincerely,

John Medina,
Fire Chief

"SERVING OUR CITY WITH PRIDE"

Email from Kathi Wolf, La Sierra High School Career Counselor, to Chief Esparza on April 7:

Thank you so much for spending time with our students at the La Sierra High School Career Center on December 11, 2013. Our students thoroughly enjoyed your presentation on careers in firefighting. The students also enjoyed a visual tour of your fire engine as well as some of the equipment used to fight fires. We appreciate the support our community gives in helping our students plan for their future careers. We look forward to seeing you again

the General Alarm



Employee Service and Awards Ceremony Promotions/Shield Presentations

April 2014



L to R: Interim Fire Chief Mike Esparza; Administrative Deputy Chief Scott Blair; USAR Division Chief LaWayne Hearn; Captain Dan Wible; Engineer Dave Revollo; FF Kyle Phillips; Engineer Eric Peniata (represented by his wife and kids); FF Zach Pettikas; Engineer Jeff Lewis; FF/PM Matt Dalton; FF Aaron Wible; FF/PM Anthony Bons

**Employee Service and
Awards Ceremony
Promotions/Awards**

the General Alarm



April 2014



L to R: Battalion Chief Bruce Vanderhorst; EMS Coordinator Kristen Clements w/ husband FF/PM Chuck Clements; E2 Crew (FF/PM David Juarez, Eng Pat Mullen, Cpt Rich Bennett); FF Wayne Hess; FF/PM Kevin Whittaker; FF Matt Galik's family (Matt on Skype in background)

**Employee Service and
Awards Ceremony
Awards**

the General Alarm



April 2014



L to R: E12B Crew (FF John Wescott, FF/PM Brad Fike; Cpt Sean Smith); Cpt Scott Wilson w/ Eng Pat Mullen; CERT Coordinator Gina Perez; Greg Bluma (wife Nadine accepting) on Skype; Eng Paul Seawright, FF/PM Bobby Redondo, FF/PM Ray Orozco, FF/PM David Juarez, FF/PM Jeremy Meadows); Eng Chris Stamper, FF Tim Vanderhorst, FF/PM Chuck Clements, Cpt Matt Mathis; Graduating Explorers; Senior Administrative Assistant Karen McCoy

the General Alarm



PHOTO ALBUM

April 2014



L to R: Division Chief Scott Blair and his wife Janice won a Hawaii trip at this year's Riverside Museum Assn. Fundraiser; FF/PM Dave Nelson learns about equipment on the Water Rescue and Rescue 3 during an apparatus drill; Retired FF Nick Kovac stopped by the new Downtown Fire Station on April 30; On April 23, Station 2 T2, S2, and S5 trained on their tools at Sierra Towing; On April 28, BC Stamper found a friend while standing by on a haz mat in Station 2's district



Training

the General Alarm



April 2014



In April, RPD's Technical Services Unit (TSU), RFD Haz Mat, and RFD Arson trained jointly on the donning and doffing of the bomb suit

FIRE LINE - DO NOT CROSS



the General Alarm



Oso USAR Response

April 2014



The IST from Washington State arrived home on April 13 and were greeted by Chief Esparza. Everybody was glad to be back. We are certainly proud of our folks, knowing they offered the citizens of Oso their best work and expertise. After twenty days, welcome home to Dave Bakas, Mike Williams, Rob Gabler, Greg Bluma, Eric Peniata, Chris Anderson, Joseph Reed, and Matt Galik. (photo lower left) The IST support team was replaced by: Mitch Wesche, Greg Arias, Carl Colby, Sean Wilde, Josh Tronaas, Ron Rondero, Shawn Haney, and Pete Sellas. The second team returned in the evening of April 19. (photo lower right)



the General Alarm



April 2014

Bring Your Kids to Work Week



Comments from the proud parents:

Dave McClellan's daughter Brittney and Frank Smith's daughter Sydnie rode out with Station 1B on Truck 1 and Engine 1 on April 25.

From Engineer Frank Smith assigned to Downtown Fire Station/B shift: *"What an awesome experience for both my kids and I. My daughter Sydnie age 18, and my son Grant age 14, who participated in the ride-a-long opportunity"*

Marciano Duran's son Chazz Duran took part of the Bring your Child To Work Event. He was able to see his dad and crew (E3) on their wildland training drill and respond on three calls. Marciano said the crew and experience was awesome for Chazz and Dad.

